

To the chair and members of the committee:

I am not opposed to House Bill 5520. I am adamantly opposed to section 19 of it. Should this not be removed then I ask that you not pass this bill.

Section 19 is a land swap between two businesses and the DEP for land that is owned by me and all citizens of Connecticut. It was just purchased in 2003 to be utilized as open space and I for one like it that way. From what information I have seen the DEP has made no effort to market this land for a trade. This is simply a business proposition being supported by Eileen Daily. The citizens of CT should not have to give up their land for a couple of business people to profit.

I would also like to add that I do not see the land being offered by the businesses as being equitable. The two parcels on the east of the river being offered by the opera house are too small to do anything with. This is land they got from the state years ago for \$1.00 now they want to trade it back saying it is worth one million. The land being offered in Higganum I will not slander but they should be offering all of it and more not just a piece. We are talking about 17 acres over looking the CT river.

I am aware that appraisals have to be done but I do not have a lot of faith in the states appraisal system. I can give you 28 million reasons for that.

Again I ask you to remove section 19 from HB 5520. If this cannot be done then I urge you to not pass this bill. Please keep our open space open.

I thank you for your time on this matter.

Arthur Abbott

Higganum CT